

Application No. 10/817,621

b. Remarks

Claims 16-18, 23, and 24 are pending in the present application. Claims 16-18, 23, and 24 have been allowed. Claims 13-15 and 19, which were rejected, have been cancelled. Claims 4, 7-12, and 20-22, which are being held in abeyance as nonelected with traverse after the restriction/election requirement, have also been canceled herein.

1. Allowed Claims

Claims 16-18, 23, and 24 have been allowed. Note that Claim 24 has been amended as a matter of form to depend on allowed Claim 16 rather than on rejected, canceled Claim 19. The other claims have not been amended.

2. Rejection under §103(a)

Claims 13-15 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayward in view of Roi. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection, but have cancelled these claims in an effort to gain an auspicious allowance (see Applicants' January 23, 2006 Amendment/Response). For the record, Applicants do not agree that this action should have been made final, since it included new grounds of rejection that are not believed to have been necessitated by Applicants' previous amendment.

3. Nonelected Claims

Claims 4, 7-12, and 20-22 are being held in abeyance as nonelected with traverse after the restriction/election requirement. These non-elected, withdrawn claims have been cancelled herein, though Applicants reserve the right to pursue them by filing a divisional application within the time allotted for doing so.

Application No. 10/817,621

No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request that the application be passed to issue.

Sincerely,

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